

A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED CLAUSAL  
COORDINATES AS USED IN THE AMENDED 1999  
CONSTITUTION OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

BY

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has been written by me and that it is a record of my own research. It has not been presented in any previous application for a higher degree. All quotations are indicated, and the sources of information are specifically acknowledged in the references.

TOLUHI, OLADELE JOHN

SIGN: .....

DATE: .....

## CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled *A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED CLAUSAL COORDINATES AS USED IN THE AMENDED 1999 CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA*, submitted by TOLUHI, OLADELE JOHN, meets the regulations governing the award of a Master of Arts(M.A.) degree in English Language, Department of English and Literary Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and it is approved for its contributions to knowledge and Language Studies.

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## DEDICATION

This thesis is, first of all, dedicated to the Almighty God for sparing my life to successfully conclude the work. It is neither by my power nor by my might, but by His grace upon my life. It is also dedicated to all lovers of knowledge worldwide who believe that *a little learning is a dangerous thing* (Alexander Pope 1688-1744).

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## ABSTRACT

The language of law has been viewed by many as difficult to understand primarily because of archaism in its morpho-syntactic structure. Also, the Latin and French maxims that have characterised legalese have prevented some researchers from delving into it. Another issue of concern to some researchers has to do with the longwinded sentence structure of legalese. Therefore, this study looks at how clauses are coordinated by *and*, *but* and *or* in the long sentences used in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with the aim of analysing the coordinated clauses, stating the syntactic implications associated with clausal coordination as well as determining the possible interpretation of the sections of the constitution where they are used. The study sets out to help non-legal practitioners comprehend sections of the constitution where clauses are coordinated as part of the Plain English campaign going on across the world. The scope of the study is limited to clausal coordination as the thesis topic implies. The theoretical Framework for the study was Systemic Functional Grammar. Halliday's symbols for dividing texts into constituent syntactic structures were used in the course of analysing and interpreting the data collated from a copy of the constitution procured by the researcher. Twenty-six compound and compound-complex sentences were randomly picked for analyses. Analyses were done in a tabular form of six columns: column one for serial number, two for the text, three for the source of the text, four for the text's analysis, five and six are for the syntactic implication of coordination and the realization possible meaning. The result of the analyse revealed that clauses are intentionally coordinated in some sections of the constitution for a number of reasons, such as: the need to further clarify the provision in the first conjoin with the one in the second conjoin; the room for the realization of a combination of alternatives, amongst others.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter is divided into six parts. It discusses the background to the study. It also looks at the statement of the problem with the research questions arising from it. The aim and objectives of the study, together with its scope are also captured in this chapter.

#### **1.1 Background to the Study**

A constitution is a set of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or an organization is governed. An organization can be better run administratively if it has a constitution that will serve as a guide. In a nutshell, there is no formal organization without a constitution. The smooth operation of every government and society depends to a very large extent on how well its constitution, written or unwritten, flexible or rigid, serves its citizens (Ibiley, 2002:1).

Nigeria, as a sovereign state, has a rich history of constitutional developments because of the yearnings of Nigerians in all areas of endeavours which has not been met. Between 1922 and 1999, the country has been administered under several constitutions. In 1922, The Clifford Constitution was enacted. This was followed by The Richards Constitution

of 1946. In 1951, The Macpherson Constitution was also enacted to replace The Richards Constitution. They were followed by The Lyttleton Constitution of 1954, the 1960 Independence Constitution, the 1963 Republican Constitution, the 1979 Second Republic Constitution, the 1989 Third Republic Constitution, and the 1999 Constitution of the Fourth Republic.

Right now, The National Assembly is still deliberating on how to further amend the 1999 Constitution. This is because it is not all Nigerians that have accepted the Constitution, which is considered to be an almost total adoption of the 1979 Constitution, as adequate. Almost on a daily basis, comments in the dailies and on the radio and television stations in Nigeria still underscore the dissatisfaction with the document and the need for some amendments. Minorities whose rights and independence are not properly protected look up to the Constitution for redress. In the United Kingdom for instance, the people of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have relied very much on the Constitution and its redefinition for the redress of their perceived or manifest marginalisation. The intended interpretation of the Constitution determines the action of the judiciary, the legislative and the executive arms of government ( Black, 1990: 311).

Legalese has linguistic features, such as long sentences, complex constructions, archaic and hyper – formal vocabulary which has made

interpretation of document difficult or in most cases vague. This study examines an aspect of these linguistic features, the syntactic manifestations of clausal coordination by *and*, *but* and *or* in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## **1.2 Statement of the Research Problem**

The confusion, misunderstanding, ignorance and controversies surrounding the possible interpretation of the provisions of the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria can be seen in the light of what some researchers think of it. They believe that the language in which it is written should be plain to the point that non-legal practitioners can understand its provisions. In line with the efforts of Plain English campaigners to simplify Legal English, this study looks at the syntactic implications of the clausal coordinates embedded in the long sentences used in the constitution and their possible interpretation.

## **1.3. Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of the study is to do a syntactic analysis of clausal coordination by *and*, *but*, and *or* as used in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a view to finding out some syntactic implications that the uses of those coordinators generate in compound sentences. In

achieving this aim, the study further seeks to realise the following objectives:

- (a) To identify the attributes of the sections and subsections characterised by clausal coordination by *and*, *but* and *or* in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (b) To discuss the syntactic implications that the uses of each of them could generate in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (c) To do a syntactic analysis of the sections and subsections of the Amended 1999 Constitution that have clausal coordination.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- b) What are the attributes of the sections and subsections characterised by the use of *and*, *but* and *or* in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria?
- c) What are the syntactic implications that clausal coordination by *and*, *but* and *or* could generate in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria?
- d) What are the literal meanings of the sections or subsections characterised by clausal coordination?

## **1.5 Scope and Delimitation of the Study**

The study selected and analysed clausal coordination by *and*, *but*, and *or* from the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and did a syntactic analysis of them. The restriction has been dictated by the need to do an in-depth treatment of coordinators, their syntactic implications and functions when they coordinate clauses. Consequently, ellipsis in coordinated clauses and phrasal coordinations are not covered in this study.

## **1.6 Justification for the Study**

This study looks at an aspect of the syntax of the Constitution. Clausal coordination is predominantly used in the Amended 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria. This poses certain syntactic implications. Previous studies on legal documents such as Ibileye (2002) and Abochol (2011), among others, focus on various aspects of the legal language, leaving out the aspect of clausal coordination.

As a result of this, there is the need for a syntactic analysis of the sections and subsections of the constitution characterized by clausal coordination.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter contains a review of related literature. It discusses legalese as a language variety as well as various grammatical theories – both past and present, and the theoretical framework for the study.

#### 2.1. Coordination

Coordination is a syntactic structure that contains the linkage of two or more conjoins at the same grammatical level by certain conjunctions. That means that, for example, a verb and an adjective cannot be coordinated because such coordination will be considered ungrammatical in English. Conjunction, itself, is a word class which belongs to a sub – category of *closed system* items. Closed system items are word classes whose members are fixed. Conjunctions, pronouns, articles, prepositions, auxiliary verbs are all closed system items because they are not productive since their membership cannot be increased through affixation.

A conjunction is a word that connects words or group of words of the same grammatical unit. There are three kinds of conjunctions: *coordinating conjunctions*, *correlative conjunctions* and *subordinating conjunctions*.

### 2.1.1. Coordinating Conjunction

A coordinating conjunction connects individual words or groups of words that perform the same function in a sentence. They are: *and, but, nor, for, yet, so* and *or*. A coordinating conjunction can connect individual nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions. A coordinating conjunction can also connect phrases or clauses as in these examples:

- a) Foyeke *and* Bisi are students of Joseph Ayodele Babalola University (JABU).
- b) During the autumn, our weather has been cool, crisp *and* pleasant.
- c) He is gambling with his health *for* he has been drinking for years.
- d) Musa plans to take a bicycle tour *and* visit his uncle's farm.
- e) If someone checks on me, you can wake me up *or* take a message.

### 2.1.2 Correlative Conjunction

A correlative conjunction is a conjunction that consists of two or more words that function together. Like coordinating conjunctions, correlatives connect words that perform equal functions in a sentence. Examples are *both ... and, either ... or, not only ... but, either ... or, whether ... or*. Few of them are used below:

- a) You should take *either* a raincoat *or* an umbrella to school today.
- b) *Either* Umar *or* Ekpo is to emerge winner.
- c) *Not only* Kemi *but* Aisha is to blame for the loss.

- d) *Neither* the basketball *nor* the football team is doing well.
- e) *Both* the cross country team *and* the swimming team are doing well.
- f) *Whether* you stay *or* you go is your decision.

### 2.1.3 Subordinating Conjunction

A subordinating conjunction introduces a subordinate clause. It connects a dependent clause to an independent clause within a sentence. Subordinating conjunctions usually express relationship of time, manner, cause, condition, comparison or purpose:

TIME: After, as long as, as soon as, before, since, until, when, whenever, while

MANNER: as, as if, as though

CAUSE: because

CONDITION: although, as long as, even if, even though, if, provided that, though, unless

COMPARISON: as, than

PURPOSE: in order that, so that.

### 2.1.4. Syntactic Features of Coordinators in Clausal Coordination

Some syntactic features of coordinators in clausal coordination have been identified. They are discussed below with relevant examples:

1. Clausal coordinators are restricted to initial position in the clause:

Ojo goes to school on foot *and* Tayo goes to school by car.

John plays football *and* Tayo plays basketball.

2. Coordinated clauses are sequentially fixed. Clauses beginning with a coordinator cannot be moved to front of the preceding clause without producing unacceptable sentences or at least changing the relationships of the clauses:

- a) Musa died *and* the villagers buried him
- b) Believe his prophet *and* you will prosper.
- c) He slipped on his way home *and* broke his neck.

3. Coordinators are not preceded by other conjunctions as indicated below:

- a) He was ill at that time *and* (yet) he showed up for the meeting.
- b) He was unhappy about it, *and* (yet) he did what he was told.

4. Coordinators can link clause constituents:

He may pay you a visit tomorrow *or* may telephone you.

5. Coordinators can be used to link subordinate clauses:

I don't know whether he is from Ikot – Ekpene *or* whether he is from Calabar.

The two subordinate clauses *whether he is from Ikot – Ekpene* and *whether he is Calabar* are linked by *or* to perform the same grammatical function, which is to serve as *object*, in the sentence.

6. Coordinators can link more than two clauses as used in this case:

The adulterated drugs may be confiscated, *and* fake drugs may be destroyed, *or* the health of general public may be in danger.

7. The coordinators allow ellipsis of the subject of the clause if the subject is co – referential with that of the preceding linked clause:

I may see you tomorrow *or* (I) may phone later in the day.

He will first of all arrive here *and* (he) will proceed to commission the project the following day.

### **2.1.5. Syntactic Implications of Coordination by *And***

*And* defines the relationship between conjoins of a sentence. The only restriction on its use is that the conjoins should have sufficient features in common to justify their juxtaposition. For example, *He is a clergyman and the missing ship has been found.*

The example above is odd because it is difficult to find any link between the conjoined clauses. In logical terms, *and* merely conveys (for declaratives) that is if the whole sentence is true, then each of its conjoined clauses is true, but the syntactic implications of the juxtaposition vary. The relationship between the conjoined clauses can be explicit by adding an adverbial in parenthesis. Eight syntactic implications are identifiable with clausal coordination by *and* as discussed below:

- a) The second clause is a consequence or result of the first.

- (i) He was found guilty of the murder charge by the judge *and* was (therefore) condemned to death by hanging.

In the example given above, the first clause states why the accused was sentenced to death by hanging – he was found guilty.

Other examples are:

- (ii) The robber exchanged fire with the policeman *and* was (therefore) shot.
- (iii) They didn't prepare hard for the test *and* (therefore) they failed.

- b) The second clause is chronologically sequent to the first.

Examples are:

- (i) They queued for the meal *and* (then) they were all served.
- (ii) Bimbo washed the clothes *and* (then) she dried them on the lines.
- (iii) Go to the cafeteria *and* (then) have your lunch.

- c) The second clause introduces a contrast:

- (i) Man proposes and (in contrast) God disposes.
- (ii) Taiwo is shrewd *and* (in contrast) Kehinde is kind – hearted to all.

- d) The second clause introduces an element of surprise in view of the first.

Examples are:

- (i) He tried hard *and* (yet) he failed.
- (ii) His parents are pastors *and* (yet) he's morally corrupt.
- (iii) He pleaded for clemency *and* (yet) he was sentenced to death.

Note that *but* (in this case) could replace *and*, as exemplified below:

- (i) He tried hard *but* failed.
  - (ii) His parents are pastors *but* he's morally corrupt.
  - (iii) He pleaded for clemency *but* was sentenced to death.
- e) The second clause is a comment on the first.

Examples are:

- (i) She failed *and* it's nothing surprising.
  - (ii) Dele got all the prizes *and* who else do you think can beat him?
  - (iii) He won the election *and* that is people's expectation.
  - (iv) She jilted him *and* that's not a surprise.
- f) The first clause is a condition of the second clause.

Examples are:

- (i) Give me some money *and* (then) I will show you the way.
  - (ii) Give it to me *and* (then) I will pay you instantly.
  - (iii) Show remorsefulness *and* (then) I will plead for you.
- g) The second clause makes a point similar to the first clause:

A trade agreement could be reached with them *and* (similarly) a cultural exchange could be arranged.

- h) The idea in the second clause is an addition to the one in the first one.

Examples are:

- (i) He has long hair and (also) wears jeans.  
(ii) He is the chairman of the Committee on Defence *and* (also) heads many other committees.

#### **2.1.6. Syntactic Implications of Coordination by *Or***

*Or* is used to indicate an alternative. As with *and*, there is the semantic requirement that the clauses should have in common to justify their juxtaposition as alternatives.

- a) *Or* is exclusive, that is it expresses the idea that only one of the possibilities is attainable.

Examples are:

- (i) You can sleep in the car, *or* you can go to a hotel.  
(ii) We can eat rice and beans *or* you can eat *Akpu* with *Egusi* soup this afternoon.

When the content of the sentence allows the realisation of more than one alternative, it is necessary to exclude the combination by adding

*either*. For example, We can either school here in Nigeria *or* school in England.

A third clause can be added which explicitly allows alternatives:

You can either boil an egg, *or* you can make some cheese sandwiches, *or* you can do both. Quirk, et al (1985:933)

- b) Sometimes *or* is understood as inclusive when it allows the realisation of a combination of the alternatives, and the third possibility can be included in the third clause.

Examples

You can cook some rice, *or* you can prepare *moi-moi*, *or* prepare both.

- c) The alternative expressed by *or* may be a restatement or a correction of what is said in the first clause:

(i) He began his educational career, *or*, in other words, he started to attend the local kindergarten.

(ii) They are enjoying themselves, *or* at least they appear to be enjoying themselves.

- d) *Or* may imply a negative condition:

Give me your resignation letter *or* I fire you.

This can be paraphrased thus:

Give me your resignation letter. *If you do not*, I will fire you.

- e) *Or* may suggest a negative condition. For example, The pastor said, “Give me Scotland or I die.”

### 2.1.7 Syntactic Implications of Coordination by *But*

*But* shows a contrast and the contrast may be in any of these two forms stated below:

- a) The contrast may be because what is said in the second clause is unexpected in view of what is said in the first clause.

Examples are:

- (i) He did not want their help *but* he had to accept it.
- (ii) Ayo applied to study Medicine at the university *but* he was offered Biochemistry.
- (iii) Sunday preaches against lottery *but* he is now one of the winners.

- b) The contrast may be a restatement (in affirmative terms) of what has been said or implied negatively in the first clause.

Examples are:

- (i) John did not waste his time in the week before the examination, *but* studied hard every evening.
- (ii) Okon does not joke with national dailies, *but* reads them always in the morning.

It is normal to ellipsis the repeated subject in the second clause as exemplified in the two examples above.

## 2.2 Legal English

According to Wikipedia, Legal English is the style of English used by lawyers and other legal professionals in the course of their work. It is used in contracts, licences, court pleadings (such as summonses, briefs, judgments); laws (such as acts of parliament and subordinate legislation, case reports), and legal correspondence. Legal English has traditionally been the preserve of lawyers from English speaking countries, especially the U.S., the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, which have shared common law traditions.

### 2.2.1. The Style of Legal English

Crystal (2004) and others have identified the distinguishable features of Legal English which are as follows:

- a) Legal English contains a great deal of technical terminologies which are unfamiliar to the layman. Examples are: *waiver*, *restraint of trade*, *restrictive covenant*, *promissory estoppel*. Much of these vocabulary items are derived from French and Latin.
- b) Ordinary words are used with special meanings. Here are examples:
  - i. *Consideration* refers to contracts in Legal English. It means an act that constitutes the price for which the promise of the other party is bought.

- ii. *Construction* refers to the process of determining the real meaning or proper explanation of ambiguous terms or provisions in a status, written instrument or oral agreement. For example, *They put a sympathetic construction on her behaviour.*
  - iii. *Prefer* means to file, prosecute or offer for consideration before a court of law. For example, *He preferred the suit in a higher court.*
  - iv. *Redemption* refers to the recovery of something mortgaged. For example, *She has redeemed the property.*
  - v. *Furnish* means to give or supply. For example, *The records furnished me with the information required.*
  - vi. *Hold* means to decree. For example, *The court held that the defendant was at fault.*
  - vii. *Find* means to make a declaration about something. For example, *He was found guilty after the trial.*
- c) There is little or no punctuation. This arose from a widespread idea among lawyers that punctuation was ambiguous and unimportant, and that the meaning of legal documents was contained only in the words used and their context.
- d) Two or three words are strung together to convey what is usually a single legal concept. Examples of this are *null and void*, *fit and*

*proper, (due) care and attention, perform and discharge, terms and conditions, dispute, controversy or claim, and promise, agree and covenant.* This was originally done for the sake of completeness. However, sometimes the words used mean exactly the same thing. Examples are: *null and void*. *Null and void* both mean *no binding power*.

- e) There is an unusual word order. There is no single clear reason for this, although the influence of French grammatical structures is certainly a contributory factor.
- f) The use of unfamiliar pro-forms such as *the same, the said, the aforementioned*, etc are common. They are used as adjectives to modify the noun. For example, *The said Dayo Amoo has been discharged and acquitted*.
- g) The use of pronominal adverbs such as: *hereof, thereof, and whereof* is common in Legal English primarily to avoid repeating names or phrases.
- h) Legal English contains some words and titles, ending in *-er, -or* and *-ee* such as *employer and employee; lessor and lessee*, in which the reciprocal relationship is indicated by the use of alternative endings.
- i) Phrasal verbs play a large role in Legal English, as they do in Standard English, and are often used in a quasi-technical sense. For

example, parties *enter into* contracts, *put down* deposits, *serve* [documents] *upon* other parties, *write off* debts, and so on.

- j) Lengthy and complex sentences are used. Studies show that sentences in legal language are long. Sometimes there seems to be an attempt to capture an entire statute or linguistic principles in a single sentence.

### 2.3 The Plain English Campaign

The rationale for the Plain English movement is that legal documents ought to be more comprehensive to the average person. The modern movement began in the 1990s, but there has been clamour for the simplification of legal English for many centuries the western world.

The first major struggle in England was to how legal texts could be translated into English, the language of the people, from French and Latin. The problem largely arose when Williams, the Duke of Normandy, defeated the Anglo-Saxon King Harold at the battle of Hastings in 1066 and became the King of England. Williams and his followers spoke a type of French and their legal documents were mainly in Latin and later in French also.

By 1422, King Henry VI, a native English speaker emerged, yet French was still the language of the law. People's dissatisfaction with this

development led to what might be considered the first plain English law: *The Statute of Pleading* enacted in 1362. There were also similar moves in the united states of American.

Mellinkoff (1963) points out the absurdities of traditional legalese. On a more practical level, Wydick (1994) has been widely used to teach law students the art of legal writing. In fact plain English principles have been incorporated into the writing curriculum of most law schools in the United States. In 1978, for instance, president carter signed an executive order that required that federal regulations must be as simple and clear as possible. Similarly, Bill Clinton's administration mandated in 1998 that federal regulations should be written in a plainer language.

American legislative drafting manuals now advocate the use of plain language. One of such manual recommends avoiding elegant variation, as well as legalistic terms such as *such*, *said*, *aforesaid* and *to with*. It also favours the active voice over the passive.

In addition, the English court system implemented new rules of civil procedure in 1999. They received a fair amount of press attention because they had abolished some time - honoured legal terms for modern

equivalents. A *subpoena* is now a *witness summons*, an *in camera* hearing as now a *private* hearing and a *writ* is now a *claim form*, amongst others.

However, Plain English campaign is relatively new and has not made much impact on the simplification of the language used in legal document in Nigeria. The only organisation known for championing the use of plain English in legal matters is Write House. Members of the organization advocate for the liberalisation of access to legal documents and the drafting of parliamentary laws through the use of plain English in legal communication and writing. They believe that Nigerians should be able to understand and sign legal documents for opening a bank account, insurance policies amongst others.

Several researchers have been carried out on the different aspects of the English used in drafting legal documents with the aim of throwing more lights on the interpretation of the documents by layman without necessarily having the service of a legal practitioner.

Ibileye (2001) takes a look at the modals used in the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with the aim of ascertaining the functions of the modals and their intended pragmatic interpretations. This is because there are different ways of using modals to express, obligations

prohibition, permission, amongst others in legal English. Legal documents may prohibits certain actions, may confer rights or create obligations, may permit or authorise certain actions. There are also several similar works on the modal verbs used in legal English. See Peliskova, V. (2006), Zelenka, R. (2013) and so on.

Similarly, Abochol (2011) carries out a textual analysis of another legal document titled *The Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) Act ,2000*. The research features both syntactic and semantic analyses of some selected sentences from the Act with the aim to further throw more light on the comprehensibility of the very long sentences used in the Act.

#### **2.4. Theoretical Approaches to Syntax**

Akmajian , Demers, Farmer, & Harnish, (2003:139) define syntax as *the study of how sentences are structured*. In other words, syntax is the grammatical arrangement of words in an acceptable way in a grammatical unit. Syntax is also used to refer to the rules and principles that govern the sentence structure of any language. Works on grammar were written long before modern syntax came about. The Aṣṭādhyāyī of Pāṇini is often cited as an example of pre - modern work on grammar. In the West, the school of thought that came to be known as *Traditional Grammar* began with the

work of Dionysius Thrax, a Hellenistic grammarian who lived between 170 BC and 90 BC.

For centuries, syntax was dominated by a framework known as *grammaire generale*, first expounded in 1660 by Antoine Arnauld (1612 – 1694), a philosopher, in a book of the same title. This system took as its basic premise the assumption that language is the direct reflection of our thought processes. Therefore there is a single, most natural way to express a thought. However, in the nineteenth century, with development of historical – comparative linguistics, linguistics began to realise the sheer diversity of human language, and to question fundamental assumptions about the relationship between language and logic. It became apparent that there was no such thing as the most natural way to express a thought, and therefore logic could no longer be relied upon as the basis for studying the structure of language.

The Port – Royal Grammar modelled the study of syntax upon that of logic.

Initially, this view was adopted even by early comparative linguists such as Franz Bopp. The central role of syntax within theoretical linguistics became clear only in the twentieth century because of the emergence of syntactic theories. The century is tagged *century of syntactic theory* as far

as linguistics is concerned. A number of syntactic theories are reviewed below.

#### **2.4.1. Traditional Grammar**

What is generally referred to as *Traditional Grammar* today should perhaps be known as *Classical Grammar*. Most English grammar books written before the twentieth century followed the classical patterning of parts of speech and accidence. English grammar was compressed into their classical moulds. It was done that way because English grammar was originally designed to facilitate the learning of Latin.

Although Traditional Grammar recognizes grammatical units, the description and definitions it gives are unsuitable. Perhaps, its description of the English sentence as consisting solely of subject and predicate makes the model unsuitable for present-day use. Traditional Grammar is a prescriptive grammar, and not a descriptive one. It fails to make provision for the spoken form of the language. Proponents of this grammar included: Charles Butler (1634), Robert Lowth (1762), etc.

#### **2.4.2. Immediate Constituent Analysis (ICA)**

Bloomfield (1933) in Osisanwo (1991: 11) introduces the term *Immediate Constituent* to show that sentences are not just linear sequences of

elements, that are made up of layers of immediate constituents. Each lower – level constituent is part of a higher level constituent. Bloomfield followers, especially Wells and Harris, worked on the principles of constituent analysis in greater detail. There is the belief in each of them, according to Lyons (1968), that Chomsky eventually took this up from Harris and subjected the undeveloped theory to a more formalised and mathematical treatment. Well’s version of the immediate constituent analysis theory is accepted to be the best known in the area. Joos (1966), in analyzing the text, breaks it into two constituents. With a fundamental sentence type as the base, linear sentences are regarded as expansions. The need for economy and explicitness guides the analysis. The sequences arrived at have to fulfill three conditions:

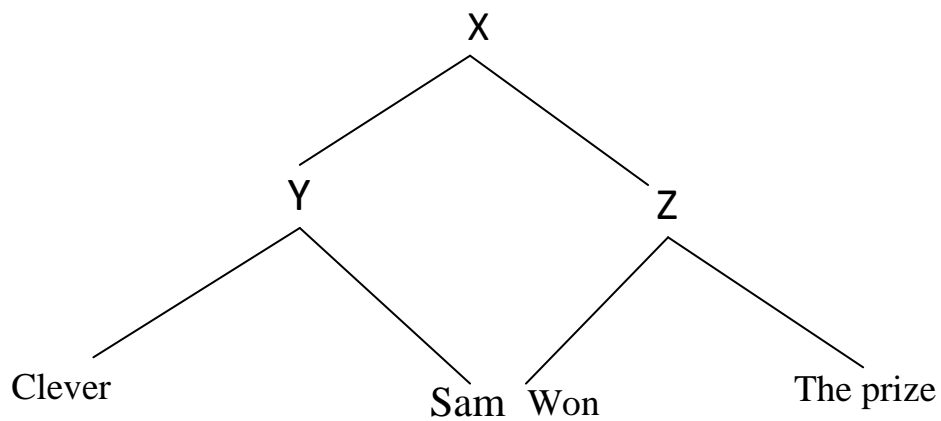
- a) preserve the same grammatical meaning;
- b) fit in the environment; and
- c) belong to form – class with the greatest possible variety of control.

Sentence analysis can be represented graphically in a number of ways. Three well-known methods are shown below with the sentence, *Clever Sam won the prize*. The methods are the use of bracket, a tree diagram and cuts.

Examples:

Brackets: (Clever Sam) (won the prize)

Tree Diagram:



Cuts:

Clever Sam / won the prize

Clever Sam / won / the prize

Clever / Sam / won / the / the / prize

Although the Immediate Constituent Model has been greatly formalized as a model of grammar, there is no doubt that it has made some contributions to the development of grammatical analysis.

### 2.4.3. Finite State Grammar (FSG)

Ndimele (1999:144) regards Finite State Grammar as ... *the simplest model of Generative Grammar proposed by Chomsky in 1957... whose main assumption is that grammatical sentences in a language can be generated by means of a series of linear choices. The choices are made from left to right....* In the framework, the selection of the first or leftmost constituent determines the subsequent choice of the immediate preceding constituent. Chomsky described this model as a machine made up of stages

at which constituents are deposited as the derivation progresses from left to right. Finite State Grammar has the initial stage symbolized as  $S_0$  and the terminal as  $S_f$  with a number of intervening stages. The derivational process of a sentence using Finite State Grammar is presented thus: ( $S_0, S_1, \dots, S_n$ ). This is to be interpreted as, start from Stage  $S_0$  to Stage  $S_1$  registering the constituent or the symbol  $x$ . The procedure continues along the derivation path until the derivational process is fully completed.

#### **2.4.4. Phrase Structure Grammar (PSG)**

Phrase Structure Grammar, which started with Chomsky's *Syntactic Structure*, is a formalisation of Immediate Constituent Analysis. It is a rewritten grammar that provides the mechanism for splitting up a given sentential structure into its constituents beginning with the immediate constituents, which are in the form of abstract symbols, such as  $S \rightarrow NP + AUX + VP + ADJ$ . The objective of the grammar is to demonstrate that each high unit contains a number of constituencies, which may or may not be further broken into lower immediate constituents. As a rewrite grammar, PSG makes use of a set of rewrite rules, which handle one category or constituent at a time. A rewrite rule is one that takes a symbol or a set of symbols as its input and converts it into a different sequence of symbol or symbols as its output. The rules are unordered, that is, once a sentence is split up into its constituents, there is no fixed order in rewriting

each one of them so far as the outcome is a string of pre-terminal symbols made up of lexical and grammatical formatives, which now undergo the rule of lexical insertion. Thus, a deep structure is formed when appropriate lexical items and grammatical formatives have taken the place of the abstract symbol of a pre-terminal string. PSG rules can be presented as follows:

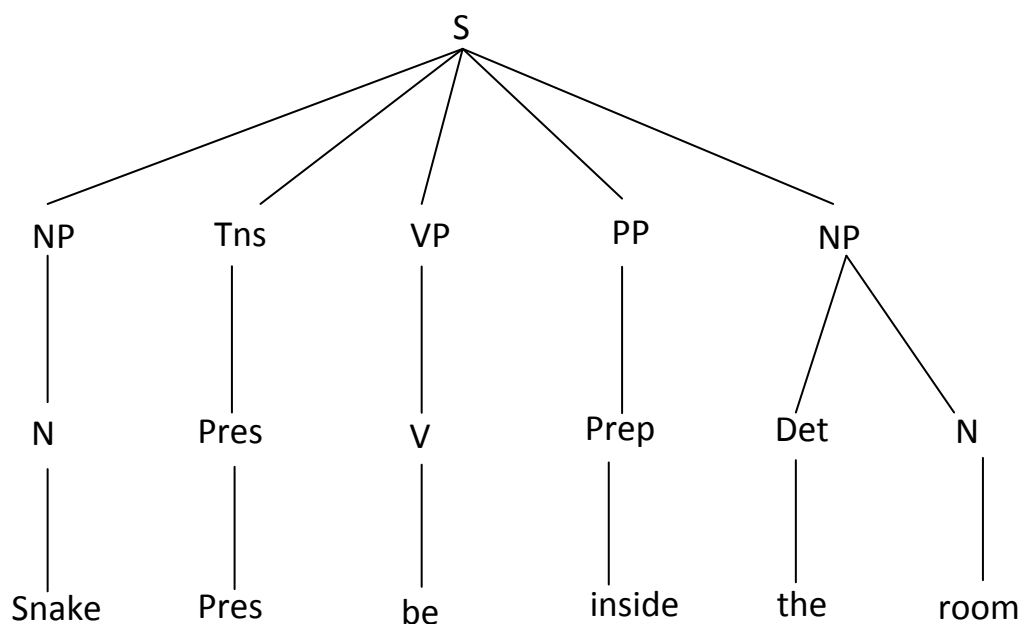
$S \rightarrow NP + AUX + VP$

$NP \rightarrow (Det) (Adj) N$

$AUX \rightarrow \text{Tense (modal) (Have) (Be) (-en) (-ing)}$

$VP \rightarrow V (VP) (PP) (Adj) (Adv)$

The rules stated above are typical examples of PS rules in English. Given these rules, it is possible to represent a sentence in a tree diagram like the one presented below.



The foregoing validates the earlier claim that PSG is a formalized model of IC Analysis.

Basically, PSG is characterised by the following: First, only one symbol is rewritten at a time. Secondly, the order of the immediate constituents of the sentence does not change in the course of rewriting subsequent constituents. Thirdly, the PS rules are hierarchical, moving from superordinate to different hyponyms or sub-categories. Furthermore, PSG is language specific, determined largely by the nature of language order of consideration. By its very nature, PSG is limited by the type of operation it can carry out. For example, PSG cannot rearrange items in a given sentence. It cannot add to or subtract from the sentence. What it does is to give the picture of the syntactic construction as it is presented.

The nature of PSG rules tends to imply that any sentence not generated by them is not an acceptable sentence of English. However, there are many sentences that do not conform to the rules. PSG is only a partial account of the grammar of any given language. This suggests that it is neither observationally nor descriptively adequate. The grammar invariably needs some kind of supplementation in the form of transformation or transformational rules.

#### 2.4.5. Tagmemics

Tagmemics as a model of grammar is closely associated with the name of Kenneth L. Pike. It appears that the earliest published formulation of the model is under the title of *grammemics* Pike, (1954). As a result of protests on etymological grounds, that is, the association of *gram* with writing, as for instance in *spectrogram*, the title of the theory was changed to *grammemics* – with the addition of another *m* in 1965. Following the advice of Bernard Bloch that a completely new term was needed, it was changed to *Tagmemics*.

The use of the term *Tagmemics* was borrowed by Pike from Bloomfield, but his own usage is different. Whereas Bloomfield says it is a unit of grammatical meaning that can be found in even a single bound morpheme. Pike uses the term to refer to a meaningful stretch of speech, which is not a bound morpheme. In Bloomfield's usage, *duchess* is made up of three forms (Bloomfield 1933:168). In Pike's, since it is only one minimum free form, it can constitute only one Tagmeme, and not more. Of the Tagmeme, Pike (1958:278) says: *A Tagmeme, in my own view, always has one of its basic characteristics a correlation between a functional slot and a morpheme(or morpheme sequence, etc.) distribution class.* Thus, there is a reciprocal relation between a morphemic distribution classes, on the one hand, and on the other hand, the functional slot manifested by that class.

Perhaps, a clearer definition of the Tagmeme is to be found in the following formulation by Elson and Pickett (1964:57), *Tagmeme, as a grammatical unit, is the correlation of a grammatical function or slot with a class of mutually substitutable items occurring in that slot. This slot – class correlation has a distribution within the grammatical hierarchy of a language.* The term slot refers to the grammatical function of the Tagmeme. The terms *subjects, object, predicate, modifier* and the like indicate such grammatical functions.

In the original formulation by Pike, it is made clear that Tagmemes are to be expressed in terms of formulas. The procedure is illustrated by a sentence in which each word is a Tagmeme as in: *John saw Mary*. This type of sentence is said to have the Tagmemic formula  $S^N P^V O^N$ , meaning that there are three grammatical slots: subject, predicate, and object, with a noun filling the first slot; a verb the second, and a noun the third. In the following formulation by Elson and Pickett (1964:57), the above formula is represented as: S: N+P: V+O: N. The morpheme classes that fill the slots are known as *fillers*. Hence the Tagmemic approach to the analysis of language is sometimes referred to as a *slot and filler* approach. Part of Immediate Constituent (IC) theory is assumed in the theory of Tagmemics. The main difference is that the Tagmemic approach recognises that sometimes the data do not easily lead to IC analysis. The whole string

should then be left as a series of Tagmemes. In Pike's formulation, since a free morpheme or morpheme strings can constitute a Tagmeme, one would normally expect a hierarchical relationship between a Tagmeme and the constituent morphemes. Pike appears to be saying that this is not so when he speaks of both as being equally primitive terms with none given priority over another. Quite rightly, Pike rejects the assumption in some American Linguistic circles that phonetics is below and outside the linguistic levels of analysis. Pike's suggestion is that language should be viewed as an interlocking system of the three hierarchies of lexical, phonological and grammatical structures.

A very important contribution made by the Tagmemic model to grammatical analysis is the recognition of the fact that the dichotomy of grammar into morphology and syntax is sometimes artificial and intractable in practice. Pike cites Bloomfield's example for the phrase-word *Jack-in-the-pulpit* as an instance of the difficulty of deciding the boundary between morphology and syntax.

It appears that the main contributions made by Tagmemics to general linguistic theory are that it emphasizes string analysis as opposed to binary divisions, and stresses the correlation between the grammatical slot and its filler. Neither of these two is an original contribution. Classical grammar

recognizes the correlation of forms and functions. The third innovation that Tagmemics has to its credit is the use of linguistic formulas in the analysis of language data. This points the way to a more highly formalized theory of grammar. Tagmemics is a model of grammar that is based on unordered rewriting rules.

#### **2.4.6. Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG)**

Chomsky (in Ndimele 1999:158) advances two major arguments in support of why transformations are important in accounting for the structure of sentences:

- (i) To show that sentences which exhibit superficial syntactic differences can be proved to have a common origin and should have a similar meaning;
- (ii) To show that sentence which exhibit striking similarities on the surface can be proved to come from different underlying sentences.

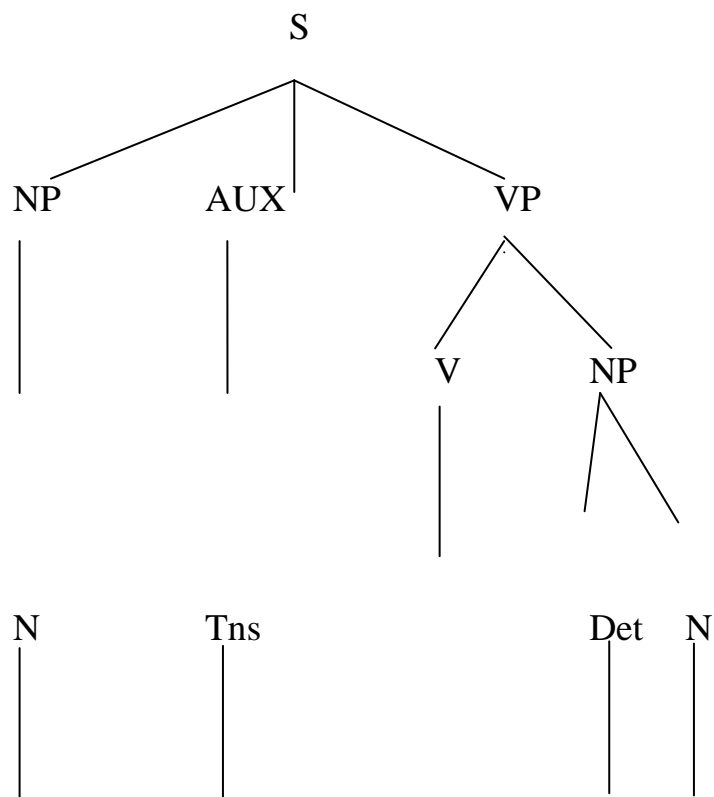
Further to this, in any syntactic description, the observable syntactic structure of the sentence (the surface structure) should be related to a more abstract deep structure. The former is the aspect of description that determines the phonetic form of sentences, while the latter determines semantic interpretation and the rules that express the relation of deep and surface structures in sentences, which are called grammatical transformations. Transformational Generative

Grammar (TGG) consists of three major components: (i) the syntactic component (ii) the semantic component, and (iii) the phonological component. The syntactic component is the centre of the grammar, while the semantic and phonological components depend on the syntactic to realise their meanings. The syntactic component comprises basically of two sub- components: the base sub- components and the transformation sub- component.

a) The Base sub – component

The basic rule of this component is to generate the deep structure of the sentence. It comprises the lexicon; lexical insertion rules, sub-categorization rules and phrase structure rules. The lexicon embodies the total word list of a given language and provides three pieces of information about the status of these lexical items. These are (i) syntactic information, that is, the categorial features of the lexical items, (ii) semantic information and (iii) phonological information; that is, how a particular lexical item is pronounced. Lexical insertion rules specify conditions for the attachment of lexical items under their appropriate categorial nodes in accordance with the conventions that obtain in the given language. These rules are of two types: matching format and substitution format. The former states that lexical items are selected and inserted under a node in the P- marker if the semantics as well as the syntactic

properties of the lexical items are not different from those generated by the rules. In other words, the rules place a constraint on the syntactic position of words in a sentence. For example, the rule specifies that the word ‘read’ is a verb that must be inserted in a P – marker containing a human subject and an accompanying NP object and not an inanimate non-human subject. In the case of substitution format, it specifies a grammatical feature. An example of a P-maker with a grammatical relation as specified by the substitution format as can be seen below:



{ Eze pres counts the money }

{ Goat pres worships the oracle }

From the above diagram, the first sequence of symbols ‘Eze counts the money’ is grammatically and semantically acceptable, but the second sequence is not although it is grammatical. The second sequence of the symbols – ‘Goat worships the oracle can substitute the first sequence if other non- syntactic features are not taken into account. The phrase structure rules (PS rules) establish the sentential, clausal and phrasal structures, and by so doing, provide the categorial and functional information about the strings.

The last stage of our PS derivation is a set of category symbols and grammatical formation, which constitute the pre-terminal string. When the relevant lexical items are inserted in their appropriate nodes, there is a deep structure from which the semantic interpretation of the given syntactic construction derives. The PS rules categorize constituents and specify the order of occurrence in any given syntactic construction. According to Agbedo (2003:110), PS rule can be of the form:

S	NP	+	AUX	+	VP
VP	V	+	NP	+	PP
NP	D	+	Adj	+	N
PP	Prep	+	NP		

And interpreted thus:

The syntactic construction S (Sentence) is made up of the categorical string NP (noun phrase) followed by AUX and VP (verb phrase). The VP, in turn, comprises V (Verb), an NP and prepositional phrase (PP). The NP is made up of determiner (D), Adjective (Adj) and N(noun). The PP comprises of preposition and a noun phrase. Sub- categorisation rules, as part of the base sub component, are of two types: 'context free and 'context sensitive'. The former (context free) provides the information needed for the success of any syntactic description. It is the rule that specifies the features that pre-terminal strings have. For example, it lists such features as animate human, concrete etc for noun or transitive for verb. Context sensitive sub-categorisation rules comprise selectional restriction rules and strict sub categorization rules. The selection restriction rule is a condition or constraint imposed on a particular lexical item, as regards the environment in which it must occur in the deep structure in the light of the relevant inherent semantic features of another lexical item in an adjacent syntactic environment. The semantic properties of lexical items, which the selectional restriction rule specifies, determine the collocation pattern of lexical items in syntactic constructions. The rule imposes a condition that requires that the presence of a given lexical item depends on the inherent semantic properties of another lexical item in an adjacent syntactic position. In other words, the two lexical items must satisfy the condition of semantic compatibility. For instance, the lexical item *laugh* is an

intransitive verb whose inherent semantic properties determine the type of subject that it occurs with. Since the verb refers to a type of action only human objects can perform, then it must take a type of subject that is [+human] or possess the quality of “humanness”. For example, ‘Timothy laughs’. The strict sub-categorisation rule, on the other hand, specifies the syntactic environment, that is, the domain of occurrence for a particular lexical item, the strict sub- categorization requirements of words are specified in what is known as the sub-categorisation frame”.

Trask (1993) cited in Ndimele (1999:171) sees a sub- categorization frame as “a device for treating the sub-categorization requirements of lexical items consisting simply of a statement in the lexical entry for that item of the sisters it requires or permits”. As an illustration, *bring* is not only specified in the lexicon a (+ V) but also as V + [- NP PP], which is interpreted to mean that *bring* is a verb that must be followed either by an object noun phrase (NP) or a prepositional phrase (PP):

(a) Amina brings the letter every day.

(b) Uche brought out pictures.

In (a), the verb is followed by an object NP, the letter, in (b) by the obligatory element of a prepositional phrase, a preposition (out). In the above examples, the lexical item *bring* imposes some syntactic constraints upon other linguistic units it has contracted adjacent relationship with.

b. The Transformational sub-component

As an integral part of the base component, the transformational sub-component consists of T – rules, which operate upon the deep structure generated by the base rules to yield the surface structure as the output. The deep structure aspect of the sentence, which consists of a sequence of constituents that serve as the input structure for the T – rule to operate upon, is referred to as the ‘structural description’ (SD). The surface structure, which encompasses the sequence of constituents that is derived after the T- rule has been applied is called the ‘structural change’ (SC). The essential relationship between these two aspects of the structure is that the SD specifies the conditions that the input structure (that is, the sequence of constituents) must satisfy before the T- rule can apply, which the SC specifies the way the input structure has been restructured or transformed into a new structure as a result of the application of the T- rule. To illustrate this relationship, the following sentences will suffice:

(a) Audu punished Amina

(b) Amina was punished by Audu

(a) SD: NP1 - AUX - V - NP2

(b) SC: NP2 - AUX -+ be + en - V - by + NP1

The T- rule (passive formation) was applied to the deep structure from which the surface structure was derived.

Q Uche ed + can have + en come today

SD: 1 2 3 4 5

SC: 0 3 2 4 5

Can + ed Uche have come today?

Could Uche have come today?

The T- rule, which operated upon the input structure to derive the surface structure, is the question formation rule.

## 2.5. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for the study is Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). It is a grammatical description developed by Michael Halliday in a career spanning fifty years. It is part of a social semiotic approach to language called Systemic Linguistics. The term *system* refers to the view of language as a network of systems or interrelated sets of options for making meaning Halliday (2004:15). Halliday describes his grammar as being built on the works of Saussure, Louis Hjelmslev, Malinowski, J.R. Firth, and the Prague School. In addition, he drew inspiration from the works of American anthropological linguists such as Boas, Sapir and Whorf. Of these linguists, according to Halliday (1985:262), his main inspiration was Firth.

The model has structure as surface grammar and a system of semantic features as deep grammar. With this model, grammar itself is a level. Syntax and morphology are not separated as levels, but accounted for within units on the grammatical rank scale. The model is sometimes referred to as *Scale and Category Grammar*. It is a system founded on a complex network- a system of systems. Eka (1994) explains further that according to this model, all languages have *units, structures, classes, and systems*. *Sentence* and *clause* are instances of the category of *unit*; *verb* and *noun* are instances of *class*; *subject* and *complement* are instances of *structure*.

**(a) Unit**

The unit carries grammatical patterns. The systemic model has five units on the grammatical rank scale in English. These are: sentence, clause, group, word and morpheme. Every sentence consists of one or more than one clause; every clause has one or more than one group; every group has one or more than one word, and every word has one or more morpheme.

Here are examples:

///The man, whom I assisted yesterday, is here again./// (sentence)

//The man is here.// (free clause)

[[whom I assisted yesterday]] (rank-shifted clause)

/the man/ (group)

/is/ (group)

/here/ ( group)

/whom/ (group)

/I/ (group)

/assisted/ (group)

/yesterday/ (group)

From the illustration above, the sentence has two clauses: *the man is here* and *whom I assisted*. The free clause is made up of three groups: *the man*, *is* and *here*; while the rank – shifted clause comprises of three groups: *whom*, *I*, and *assisted*.

**(b) Structure**

The term *structure* is generally used in the analysis of all the units in the grammar, except the smallest, the morpheme, which has no structure. In English, there is sentence structure, clause structure, group structure and word structure with the exponents respectively of clauses, groups, words, and morphemes. The sentence structure is made up of a clause or more-be it main clause or subordinate clause. The clause structure comprises an element or two. Four primary elements are generally observed in relation to English clauses: Subject (S), Predicator (P), Complement (C), and Adjunct (A). Every item operating in every clause is an exponent of SPCA. Of these four elements, only the Predicator is compulsory: others are optional. The elements of nominal group structure, a structure with a noun as its head, are MHQ, representing *Modifier*, *Head* and *Qualifier*. A

modifier precedes the head, while the quantifier is found in a post-head position.

**(c) Class**

Class refers to a set of items having similar possibilities of operation in the structure. Items in the same class must belong to the same unit since they all have the same structural possibilities. Thus, a verb group operates as predicator in the structure of the clause, while the noun operates as the word unit and as the head of the nominal group. It is important to note, however, that there are subclasses within the classes. For instance, in these sentences:

Boxing            is                    my hobby.

S                    P                    C

Olu                won                the prize.

S                    P                    C

The nouns *boxing* and *Olu* belong to different subclasses. *Boxing* is a gerund, while *Olu* is a proper noun.

**(d) System**

When, at a given place in the structure, there is an allowance for a choice among a small fixed set of possibilities, they are called terms in the system. For example, in English, there may be the choice among *what*, *which* and *why* and nothing else. These three then constitute a system in this particular place in the structure. Also, in the grammatical system of number, the

terms are those of singular and plural. Here, the choice of one excludes the choice of the other.

(e) **Rank-shift**

The term rank-shift is used in this grammar to explain a norm which stipulates that a unit operates in the structure of a unit immediately above it in the rank – scale. So, clauses operate in the structure of sentences; groups in the structure of clauses; words in the structure of groups and morphemes in the structure of words. It often happens, however, that in all natural languages, a given unit is moved down the rank-scale to operate in the structure of a unit of equal rank or of a lower rank. This is called rank-shift (or down-grading). In this case, there can be clauses functioning in the structure of other clauses or in the structure of groups. For example, nominal group is normally expected to operate at subject, but there can be a rank-shifted clause there, as in:

/// [[That he is still at large / is / worrisome.]] ///

S                      P              C

/// The man ((who whispered in his ear)) / is / the Master. ///

S                                      P              C

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0. Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the methodology for the study. It states the data gathering technique, its analytical procedure and the theoretical framework for the study.

#### **3.1. Data Gathering Technique**

The data were gathered from a copy of the constitution procured by the researcher from a bookshop by underlining and extracting the relevant sections of the constitution needed for the analysis. The sentences containing the clausal coordinates were sourced from the different schedules of the constitution. There are six schedules in the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The first schedule lists the thirty-six states of the federation as the various components of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and defines the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja as its administrative capital. The second schedule contains the exclusive and concurrent legislative lists as well as their interpretations. The third schedule contains the Federal and State Executive bodies while the fourth schedule lists the functions of the seven hundred and seventy-four (774) local councils in Nigeria. The fifth schedule spells out the code of conduct for public officers, while the sixth is the oath.

### **3.2. Analytical Procedure**

After sorting out the relevant sentences drawn from the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the conjoins of each sentence were identified , studied critically and analysed with a view to determining the syntactic implication of such coordination.

Six columns were provided in the analysis table. The first column contained the serial numbers of the texts for analysis. The second one contained the texts for analyses. The third one contained the sources of the texts from the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The fourth column was for the syntactic implications of the coordinations in the texts for analysis. The last column was reserved for the interpretation of the texts analysed on the basis of the syntactic implications featured in the texts.

### **3.3 Theoretical Approach to the Analysis**

The theoretical approach for this study, which is Systemic Functional Grammar is unique in the way it addresses lots of basic issues regarding sentences analyses. It has a very systematic way of analysing sentences and their constituents comprehensively. The analyses are done as done as follows:

- a) At the clausal level, it has simple structures of *alpha* and *beta* .

- b) At the group level, it provides constituents of *Subject, Predicate, Complement and Adjunct* (SPCA).
- c) At the word level, it has structures like *Modifier, Head, and Qualifier* (MHQ) before verb, extension, preposition and completive, while
- d) At the morpheme level, it provides various levels to address the issues related to word construction, which are *infix, suffix, prefix*.

However, the analyses in this study were done at the sentence and clausal levels. Halliday's (1967) scale and category suggested symbols were used, as can be seen below:

- i) Sentence boundary:

The sentence boundary was represented by three bars each at the beginning and at the end of the same sentence, */// ///*.

- ii) Clause boundary:

The boundary for this grammatical unit was represented by two bars each at the beginning and the end of the clause, *// //*.

- iii) Rank-shifted clause:

This was represented by two braces each at the beginning and the end of the clause. *[[ ]]*

iv) Included clause

This was also represented by two brackets each at the beginning and the end of the clause (( ))

The clause structure will carry *Subject, Predictor, Complement* and *Adjunct* (SPCA).



## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS

#### 4.0. Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher analyses the texts characterised by clausal coordination by *and*, *but* and *or*, which are sourced from the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to ease the comprehensibility of the sections and subsections of the constitution where they are found. The analysis will be presented in a tabular form.





	<b>Text</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>The Text's Syntactic Analysis</b>	<b>The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination</b>	<b>Possible Meaning</b>
4.	<p>///The system of local government is under this Constitution guaranteed <i>and</i> the government of every State shall ensure their existence under a law which provides for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and functions of such councils.///</p>	Section 7 (1), p.25	<p>The two coordinated independent clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>The</u> <u>system</u> <u>of</u> <u>local</u>  <sub>S</sub>  <u>government</u> <u>is</u> <u>guaranteed</u>  <sub>P</sub> <sub>A</sub>  <u>under this constitution</u>//.</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) //<u>The</u> <u>government</u> <u>of</u> <u>every</u>  <sub>S</sub>  <u>state</u> <u>shall</u> <u>ensure</u> <u>their</u>  <sub>P</sub> <sub>C</sub>  <u>existence under a law which</u>  <sub>A</sub>  <u>provides</u> <u>for</u> <u>the</u>  <u>establishment, structure,</u>  <u>composition, finance and</u>  <u>function of such councils</u>//</p>	The idea in the second clause is a consequence of the one in the first.	The constitution recognizes local government councils, and as a result of that, every state government should ensure that local government councils exist.





	<b>Text</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>The Text's Syntactic Analysis</b>	<b>The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination</b>	<b>Possible Meaning</b>
7.	///The National Assembly shall make provisions for statutory allocation of public revenue to local government councils in the federation <i>and</i> the House of Assembly of a state shall make provisions for statutory allocation of public revenue to local government councils within the state.///	Section 7(6), p. 25	<p>The two coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>The National Assembly shall</u>  <sub>S</sub>  <u>make provisions for statutory</u>  <sub>P C</sub>  <u>allocation of public revenue to</u>  <sub>A</sub>  <u>local government councils in</u>  <u>the Federation.</u>//</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) //<u>The House of Assembly of a</u>  <sub>S</sub>  <u>state shall make provisions for</u>  <sub>P C</sub>  <u>statutory allocation of public</u>  <sub>A</sub>  <u>revenue to local government.</u>//</p>	The second clause makes a similar point to the first.	The National Assembly shall make provisions for statutory allocation of public fund for all the local government councils in the Federation, likewise the various states Houses of Assembly for their own local governments.

	<b>Text</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>The Text's Syntactic Analysis</b>	<b>The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination</b>	<b>Possible Meaning</b>
8.	///A bill for an Act of the National Assembly passed pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 of this section shall not be presented to the President for assent <i>and</i> shall not be enacted unless it is ratified by a majority of all the Houses of Assembly in the Federation.///	Section 12 (3), p. 29	<p>The text is a compound-complex sentence. The two independent clauses are coordinated. The clauses are:</p> <p>a) <u>//A bill for an Act of the</u> S <u>National Assembly passed</u> <u>pursuant to the provisions of</u> <u>subsection 2 of this section</u> <u>shall not be presented to the</u> P <u>President for assent.</u>// A and</p> <p>b) <u>//...shall not be enacted;</u>// P</p> <p>c) ((Unless <u>it is ratified by a</u> S P <u>majority of all the Houses of</u> A <u>Assembly in the Federation.</u>))</p>	The idea in the second clause is an addition to the one in the first.	Any Act of the National Assembly passed in line with subsection 2 of this section shall not be presented to the President for assent, and (also) it shall not be enacted unless it is approved by the majority of all the Houses of Assembly in the Federation.



	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
11.	<p>///Any person who is unlawfully arrested or detained shall be entitled to compensation and public apology from the appropriate authority or person <i>and</i> in this subsection, the appropriate authority or person means an authority or person specified by law.///</p>	<p>Section 35 (6), p. 41</p>	<p>The coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>Any person</u> <sup>S</sup> [[<u>who is unlawfully arrested</u> <sup>P</sup> or <u>detained</u>]] <u>shall be entitled to compensation and public apology from the appropriate authority or person.</u>//</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p>b) //<u>In this subsection,</u> <sup>A</sup> <u>the appropriate authority means an authority or person specified by law.</u>//</p>	<p>The second clause here is a comment on the first.</p>	<p>The second clause specifies that <i>the appropriate authority or person</i> means the authority or person protected by the law of the land.</p>

	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
12.	///There shall be a clerk to the National Assembly and other staff as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly <i>and</i> the method of appointment of the clerk and other staff of the members of the National Assembly shall be as prescribed by that act.///	Section 51, p.50	<p>The coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) <u>//There shall be a clerk to the</u>  <sub>S</sub> <sub>P</sub> <sub>C</sub>  <u>National Assembly and other</u>  <u>staff as may be prescribed by</u>  <u>an Act of the National</u>  <u>Assembly.</u>//</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) <u>//The method of appointment</u>  <sub>S</sub>  <u>of the clerk and other staff of</u>  <sub>P</sub>  <u>the members of the National</u>  <sub>A</sub>  <u>Assembly shall be prescribed</u>  <u>by that act.</u>//</p>	The idea in the second clause is an addition to the first.	A Clerk to the National Assembly and other principal officers shall be appointed, and (in addition to that) the method of appointment shall be in compliance with the Act of the National Assembly to that effect.

	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
13.	///The President and Deputy of The Senate and the Speaker and the deputy of The House of Representatives shall declare their assets and liabilities as prescribed in this constitution <i>and</i> take and subscribe to the oath of allegiance and the oath of membership prescribed as aforesaid before The Clerk of The National Assembly.///	Section 52 (1), p.51	<p>The clauses are:</p> <p>a) <u>//The President and Deputy of the Senate and Speaker and the Deputy of The House of Representatives shall declare their assets<sup>c</sup>and liabilities (as prescribed in this constitution).//</u></p> <p>and</p> <p>b) <u>//They<sub>S</sub> shall take<sub>P</sub> and subscribe<sub>A</sub> to the oath of allegiance and oath of membership<sub>A</sub> prescribed as aforesaid before The Clerk of the National Assembly.//</u></p>	The second clause is chronologically sequent to the first.	The Senate President and his deputy as well as The Speaker of the House of Representatives and his deputy shall (first of all) declare their assets, and subsequently take their respective oaths of office before The Clerk of The National Assembly.

	<b>Text</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>The Text's Syntactic Analysis</b>	<b>The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination</b>	<b>Possible Meaning</b>
14.	<p>///Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, any question proposed for decision in The Senate or The House of Representatives shall be determined by the required majority of members present and voting <i>and</i> the person presiding shall cast a vote ....///</p>	<p>Section 56 (1), p. 52</p>	<p>The clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, any question proposed for decision in The Senate or The House of Representatives shall be determined by the required majority of members present and voting.</u>//</p> <p>b) //<u>The person presiding shall cast vote</u> //</p>	<p>The first clause is a condition for the event in the second clause to hold.</p>	<p>The presiding officer any of the two chambers of The National Assembly can only vote if there is a tie between the contending factions or individuals.</p>

	<b>Text</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>The Text's Syntactic Analysis</b>	<b>The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination</b>	<b>Possible Meaning</b>
15.	///The Senate or the House of Representatives may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership and the presence or participation in the proceedings of the House shall not invalidate those proceedings.///	Section 61,p. 54	<p>The coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>The Senate or The House of Representatives</u> <u>may</u> <u>act</u> <u>notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.</u>//  S  P  A</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) //<u>The presence or participation in the proceedings of the House</u> <u>shall not invalidate those proceedings.</u>//  S  P  A</p>	The second clause is a comment on the first.	The two chambers can hold their plenary even if there is any vacancy in its membership, and whatever decision taken is valid.

	<b>Text</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>The Text's Syntactic Analysis</b>	<b>The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination</b>	<b>Possible Meaning</b>
16.	<p>///The President upon the receipt of advice from the Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission shall table before the National Assembly proposals for revenue allocation from the Federation Account <i>and</i> in determining the formula the national assembly shall take into account the allocation principles especially those of population, equality of states; internally generated revenue, land mass, terrain as well as population density.///</p>	<p>Section 162 (2), p.96</p>	<p>The coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>The President (upon receipt</u>  <sup>S</sup>  <u>of advice from the</u>  <u>Mobilisation and Fiscal</u>  <u>Commission)</u> <u>shall table</u>  <sup>P</sup> <sup>A</sup>  <u>before</u> <u>The National</u>  <u>Assembly proposals for</u>  <u>revenue allocation from the</u>  <sup>A</sup>  <u>Federation Account.</u>//</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) //<u>In determining the formular</u>  <sup>C</sup>  <u>The National Assembly shall</u>  <u>take into</u> <sup>S</sup> <u>account the</u>  <sup>P</sup>  <u>allocation</u> <u>principles</u>  <sup>A</sup>  <u>especially those</u> <sup>A</sup> <u>of</u>  <u>population....</u>//</p>	<p>The second clause is chronologically sequent to the first.</p>	<p>After the President has tabled the proposal for revenue allocation before The National Assembly that the National Assembly can then determine the formula for revenue allocation.</p>

	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
17.	///Any appointment made pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be at the pleasure of the governor <i>and</i> shall cease when the governor ceases to hold office.///	Section 196 (3), p.113	<p>The clauses are:</p> <p>a) <u>//Any appointment made pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be at the pleasure of the governor.//</u>  A</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) <u>//The appointees shall cease when the governor ceases to hold office.//</u>  S P  A</p>	The second clause is chronologically sequent to the first.	The incumbent governor of a state has the power to appoint commissioners and special advisers to assist him in the day-to-day running of the state, and that the appointments terminate immediately the governor who appointed them is no longer in power.

	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
18.	///There shall be a police force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force <i>and</i> no other police force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof.///	Section 214 (1), p. 119	<p>The coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>There shall be a police force</u>  <sub>S P C</sub>  <u>for Nigeria which shall be</u>  <sub>A</sub>  <u>known as the Nigeria Police</u>  <u>Force.</u>//</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) //<u>No other police force shall</u>  <sub>S P</sub>  <u>be established</u>  <sub>A</sub>  <u>for the</u>  <u>Federation or any part</u>  <u>thereof.</u>//</p>	The event in the second clause is a pure addition to the first clause.	There shall be a police force known as Nigeria Police Force, and (in addition to that) no other police force shall be established for the Federation or any of its components.

	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
19.	<p>///The constitution and rules of a political party shall provide for the periodical election on a democratic basis of the principal officers and members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party <i>and</i> ensure that the members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party reflect the federal character of Nigeria.///</p>	Section 223 (1), p.122	<p>The coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) //<u>The constitution of a political party shall provide for the periodical election on a democratic basis of the principal officers and members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party.</u>//</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>b) //<u>The party shall ensure that the members of the executive committee or other governing body of the party reflect the federal character of Nigeria.</u>//</p>	The idea in the second clause is a pure addition to the one in the first.	The constitution of a political party must make provision for periodical election of the principal officers of the party, and, in addition to that, ensure that the members of the executive committee or the governing body of the party reflect the federal character of Nigeria.

	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
20.	<p>///An appointment pursuant to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall cease to have effect after the expiration of three months from the date of such appointment <i>and</i> the President shall not re-appoint a person whose appointment has lapsed.///</p>	<p>Section 250 (5), p. 134</p>	<p>The coordinated clauses are:</p> <p>a) <u>//An appointment pursuant to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall cease to have effect after the expiration of three months from the date of such appointment.//</u></p> <p>and</p> <p>b) <u>//The <sub>S</sub>President shall not re-<sub>P</sub>appoint a <sub>C</sub>person whose appointment has lapsed.//</u></p>	<p>The event in the second clause is a consequence of the event in the first. (See 2.2.4(a))</p>	<p>The entire section is all about the processes involved in the appointment of the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court. Subsection 3 states that it is only someone who is qualified to practice in Nigeria and has practiced for at least ten years that can be appointed. Subsection 4 gives room for the appointment of an interim Chief Judge of the Federal High Court if the incumbent Chief Judge is unable to perform his duties, and</p>

					<p>the tenure of the interim Chief Judge should exceed three months. Subsection 5 states that the tenure of an interim Chief Judge will expire, except on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council, and consequently, the President shall not re-appoint any person whose tenure has lapsed.</p>
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### 4.3. Clausal Coordination by *But* as Used in the Amended 1999 Constitution

S/N	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
1.	<p>///Where a bill to which this section applies is passed by one of the Houses of the National Assembly <b>but</b> is not passed by the other House within a period of two months from the commencement of a financial year, the President of the Senate shall within fourteen days thereafter arrange for and convene a meeting of the joint finance committee to examine the bill with a view to resolving the differences between the two Houses.///</p>	<p>Section 60 (2), p.54</p>	<p>The text is a compound-complex sentence. It has three clauses. The first two are coordinated:</p> <p>a) //Where a bill ... <u>is passed</u> <sup>S</sup> <u>by one of the Houses of the National Assembly</u> <sup>P</sup> <i>but</i> (in contrast)//</p> <p>b) //... <u>is not passed</u> <sup>A</sup> <u>by the other House within a period of two months from the commencement</u> <sup>P</sup> <u>of a financial year</u>;//</p> <p>c) //The President of the Senate <u>shall arrange for a meeting</u> <sup>A</sup> <u>of the joint finance committee within fourteen days thereafter</u> ...//</p>	<p>The <i>but</i> here expresses a contrast.</p>	<p>This means that when the budget is passed by one of the Houses but is not passed by the other House within two months into the financial year, the President of the Senate shall within two weeks convene a meeting of the joint financial committee to examine the bill with a view to amicably resolving the Houses' differences and pass the bill.</p>



#### 4.4. Clausal Coordination by *Or* as Used in the Amended 1999 Constitution

S/N	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
1.	///The executive powers vested in a state under subsection (2) of this section shall be so exercised as not to (a) impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive powers of the Federation; (b) endanger any asset or investment of the Government of the Federation in that state; <i>or</i> (c) endanger the continuance of the Federal Government in Nigeria.///	Section 5(3), pp 22-23	<p>The text is a compound-complex sentence. The conjoins contains three alternatives, and they are:</p> <p>a) <u>//The executive powers vested in a state...shall be so exercised as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive powers of the Federation.//</u>  <small>S</small>  <small>P</small>  <small>P</small>  <small>A</small>  <small>C</small></p> <p>b) <u>//Endanger any asset or investment of the Government of the Federation in that state;//</u></p> <p>c) <u>//Endanger the continuance of the Federal Government in Nigeria.//</u>  <small>P</small>  <small>C</small>  <small>A</small></p>	<p><i>Or</i> is inclusive in this case.</p> <p>This means that it allows the realisation of a combination of the alternatives.</p>	<p>This means that the executive power must be exercised without impeding, or endangering the continuance of the Federal Government of Nigeria.</p>



S/N	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
3.	///Whenever the Governor is proceeding on vacation <b>or</b> is otherwise unable to discharge the functions of his office, he shall transmit a written declaration to the Speaker of the House of Assembly a written declaration to the contrary, the Deputy Governor who shall perform the functions of the Governor as Acting Governor.///	Section 190 (1). p. 110	<p>The text is a compound-complex sentence. Three clauses are in the text. The first two are coordinated as shown below:</p> <p>a) //<u>Whenever the Governor</u> S <u>is proceeding on vacation</u>// P A <b>or</b> (alternatively)</p> <p>b) //...<u>is unable to discharge</u> P <u>the functions of his</u> C A <u>office.</u>//</p> <p>c) //<u>He shall transmit a</u> S P <u>written declaration to the</u> C <u>Deputy Governor who</u> <u>shall perform the functions</u> A <u>of the Governor as Acting</u> <u>Governor.</u>//</p>	The <b>or</b> suggests that only one possibility can be realized, excluding one or the other.	This means that the Governor of a state shall transmit a written declaration of power transfer to the Speaker of the House of Assembly <b>either</b> whenever he is proceeding on vacation <b>or</b> when he is unable to discharge his functions as the Chief Executive.

S/N	Text	Source	The Text's Syntactic Analysis	The Syntactic Implication of the Coordination	Possible Meaning
4.	<p>///The Governor may (a) grant any person convicted of any offence created by any Law of a State a pardon, either free or subject to lawful conditions; (b) grant to any person a respite, either for an indefinite or for a specified period, of the execution of any punishment imposed on that person for such an offence; (c) substitute a less severe form of punishment for any punishment imposed on that person</p>	<p>Section 212(1), pp 117-118</p>	<p>The text is a compound-complex. Its conjoins are:</p> <p>a) //<u>The Governor shall grant</u>  <math>\begin{matrix} S \\ \text{any person convicted (of} \\ C \\ \text{any offence created by any} \\ \text{Law) a pardon....} \\ C \quad A \end{matrix}//</math></p> <p>b) //...<u>grant to any person a</u>  <math>\begin{matrix} P \\ \text{respite...of the execution} \\ C \quad A \\ \text{of any punishment} \\ \text{imposed on that person for} \\ \text{such an offence.} \\ \end{matrix}//</math></p> <p>c) //...<u>substitute a less severe</u>  <math>\begin{matrix} P \quad C \\ \text{form of punishment} \\ \text{imposed on that person for} \end{matrix}</math></p>	<p>The <i>or</i> suggests the inclusive combination of alternatives.</p>	<p>The Governor of a state may free any convict or reduce his sentence or substitute his sentence with a less severe form of punishment.</p>

<p>for such an offence; <i>or</i>  (d) remit the whole or any part of any punishment imposed on that person for such an offence or any penalty or forfeiture otherwise due to the State on account of such an offence.///</p>		<p><u>such an offence.</u>//  A</p> <p>d) //...<u>remit the whole or any</u>  P C  <u>part of any punishment</u>  <u>imposed on that person for</u>  A  <u>such an offence...</u>//</p>		
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#### 4.5. Discussion

In the course of analysing the data, the researcher made some discoveries:

1. Some clauses are coordinated so as to clarify the interpretation of some of the provisions of the constitution. For instance, section 1(1) of the constitution states that,

That constitution is supreme and its provision shall have force on the all authorities and persons....(p. 19)

The second conjoin of this sentence has been intentionally coordinated with the first in order to categorically state those that the constitution is binding on without any controversy. Other laws must be offshoots of the constitution.

Another example is section 5(1a). The executive power shall be vested in the president *and* may be exercised by him either directly or through the vice-president and ministers....(p.22)

In this sentence also, the second conjoin discusses further the government officials that the president can vest executive power on to carry out one duty or the other as he pleases without breaching the provisions of the constitution.

The example is section 33(1):

Every person has a right to life *and* no one shall be deprived of intentionally of his life. (p.38)

The second conjoin further explains that on no account should anybody's life be terminated willingly or deliberately by any individual.

2. In some sections of the constitution the pieces of information in second conjoin are pure additions to the provisions in the first conjoins.

For instance, Section 223(1) states as follows:

The constitution and rules of a political party shall provide for the periodical election on a democratic basis of the principal officers and members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party *and* the party shall ensure that the members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party reflect the federal character of Nigeria. (p. 122)

The second conjoin in the section quoted above gives additional pieces of information to what the first conjoin contains, by adding that members of the executive or governing body must be drawn from the various parts of the country, in addition to what the first conjoin states.

Another example is section 214(1) which states that:

There shall be a police force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigerian police force *and* no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof. (p. 119)

The second conjoin adds to the provision in the first conjoin by stating that no part of the federation should establish its own police force.

3. The second conjoins in some sections of the constitution are chronologically sequent to the first conjoins, meaning that the provision in the first conjoins must be met before the ones in the second conjoins.

For example, section 52(1) reads as follows:

The President and the Deputy of the Senate and Speaker and the Deputy of the House of Representatives shall declares their assets

and liabilities... *and* they shall take and subscribe to the oath of allegiance and oath of membership as aforesaid before the Clerk of the National Assembly. (p.51)

This means that the Senate President and his Deputy as well as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and his Deputy cannot be sworn in unless they first declare their assets.

Another suitable example is Section 162 (2) which states thus:

The President upon receipt of advice from the Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission shall table before the National Assembly proposals for revenue allocation from the federation account *and* in determining the formula, the national assembly shall take into account the allocation principles especially those of population equality of states....(p.96)

What this clausal bound implies is that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has to first of all table a revenue formula based on the advice of the revenue mobilisation and fiscal commission before the national assembly can discuss anything on revenue allocation.

4. Some clauses are coordinated to expresses a contrast

An example is Section 60 (2) which states thus:

Where a bill is passes by one of the houses of the national assembly *but* (in contrast) is not passed by the other house within a period of two months from the commencements of a financial years :... (p.54)

5. Some alpha clauses are coordinated by *or* so as to give room for the realisation of a combination of the alternatives.

An example is section 5 (33) quoted below:

The executive powers vested in a state shall be so exercised as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive power, *or* endanger any asset ... *or* endanger the continuance of the federal government of Nigeria.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1. Summary

This study was carried on an aspect of the syntax of the constitution, clausal coordination. This is embedded in the long sentences used in drafting the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The study was premised on the following objectives:

- (a) To identify the attributes of the sections of the constitution characterized by clausal coordination by *and*, *but* and *or*;
- (b) To discuss the syntactic implications that the uses of each of the coordinator could generate in the constitution; and
- (c) To do a syntactic analysis of the sections of the constitution.

A good number of related literature were reviewed especially on coordination, the Plain English campaign, the language of law, the different approaches to grammar and the theoretical framework. All the features of coordination identified by Quirk, *et al* (1985) were treated with relevant examples as well as the various features of legal English and previous studies done on it were reviewed in chapter two. This was done in an attempt to provide a valuable insight into the nature of the research.

The data were gathered from a copy of the researcher from a bookshop by underlining and extracting the relevant sections of the constitution needed for the analysis.

Analyses were done in a tabular form of six columns: column one for serial number, two for the text, three for the source of the text, four for the text's analysis, five and six are for the syntactic implication of coordination and e realization possible meaning. The result of the analyse revealed that clauses are intentionally coordinated in some sections of the constitution for a number of reasons, such as: the need to further clarify the provision in the first conjoin with the one in the second conjoin; the room for the realization of a combination of alternatives, amongst others.

The summary of what was done in the research as well as making the concluding remarks and giving suggestions constitute the content of the chapter five of the study.

## **5.2. Conclusion**

This research proceeded on the assumption that the understanding of clausal coordination and its syntactic implications is crucial to the interpretation of certain constitutional provisions. This is because the constitution contains many compound and compound-complex sentences

where clausal coordinates are prevalent. The comprehension of the analysed sections of the constitution by non-legal practitioners will be largely premised on the good knowledge of clausal coordinates. Therefore, the research has been able to throw more light on clausal coordinates as used in the constitution.

Proper understanding of this linguistic phenomenon called *clausal coordination* will go a long way to solve the problem of incomprehensibility and misinterpretation of certain provisions of the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### **5.3 Suggestions**

The following aspects of the language of the constitution are still open to prospective researchers on the syntax of the constitution: unusual word-order in a sentence, a syntactico-semantic study of the phrasal verbs used in the constitution as well as passivisation. Also, we suggest that archaism and longwinded sentences should be jettisoned when drafting any legal document, and proper punctuation should be prioritised.

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## **APPENDIX**

Below is the photocopy of the relevant parts of the Amended 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the source of our data for the analysis. In order for us to make reference to them easily, we have identified and marked the clausal coordination by *and*, *but* and *or* in the constitution.